



AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claim 2 without prejudice to applicant later filing related divisional and/or continuation applications thereto; amend claims 1, 4, 8, 11-19, 22, 24-26, and 28, matter to be added is shown in underline and matter to be deleted is shown in strikethrough; and add new claims 29 - 36, as follows:

1. (currently amended) A pallet comprising:

a first portion having an outer surface and an inner surface at least a portion of which is distant from the outer surface; and

a second portion having an outer surface and an inner surface at least a portion of which is distant from the outer surface, wherein the inner surface of the first portion and the inner surface of the second portion comprise complementary shaped surfaces and wherein the inner surface of the first portion interdigitates with and substantially contacts indigitates with the inner surface of the second portion over all regions of interdigitation.

Cancel claim 2.

3. (original) The pallet of claim 1 wherein the inner surfaces of the first and second portions each have an undulating form.

4. (currently amended) The pallet of claim 1 wherein inner surfaces of the first and second portions each comprise a succession of wave-shaped ~~curved~~ protrusions.

5. (previously presented) The pallet of claim 1 wherein the outer surface of the second portion comprises at least two channels that are closer to the first portion than the remainder of the second portion.

6. (original) The pallet of claim 1 wherein the outer surface of the second portion comprises at least two feet.

7. (previously presented) The pallet of claim 1 wherein the outer surface of the second portion comprises a series of ridges and grooves and includes a plurality of feet.

8. (currently amended) The pallet of claim 7 wherein the inner surfaces of the first and second portions each comprise a succession of undulations having rises and falls and wherein each undulation at the inner surfaces of the first and second portions each includes a series of ridges and grooves that mate in complementary fashion that run perpendicular to the series of ridges and grooves on the outer surface of the second portion and further comprising tie accepting channels in the second portion.

9. (original) The pallet of claim 1 wherein the outer surface of the first portion is generally planar.

10. (previously presented) The pallet of claim 1 wherein: a) the inner surface of the first portion is molded to the inner surface of the second portion; b) the pallet is formed from puncture-resistant plastics; and c) tack off points are located along peaks and valleys of the first and second portions

11. (currently amended) A pallet comprising:

a pallet body including:

a first portion having an outer surface and an inner surface and wherein the inner surface has a portion that is displaced from the outer surface that exhibits a continuous plane of rising and falling, parallel corrugations; and

a second portion having an outer surface and an inner surface and wherein the inner surface has a portion that is displaced from the outer surface that exhibits a continuous plane of rising and falling, parallel corrugations, and

wherein the corrugations of the inner surface of the first portion are interdigitated and connected to the corrugations of the inner surface of the second portion.

12. (currently amended) A pallet of claim 11 wherein the inner surface of the first portion and the inner surface of the second portion are connected by molding one to the other such that the corrugations of the inner surfaces of the first and second portions ~~interlock and~~ bond to one another.

13. (currently amended) A method of forming a pallet comprising the steps of:

a) blow molding a first portion having an outer surface and an inner surface and wherein the inner surface has a first undulating portion that is displaced from the outer surface; and

b) blow molding a second portion having an outer surface and an inner surface and wherein the inner surface has a second undulating portion that is displaced from the outer surface, wherein the first and second undulating surface portions comprise complementary shaped surfaces, and wherein the second undulating portion is interdigitated with the first undulating portion such that the first and second undulating portions are bonded ~~interlocked~~ to one another over all regions of overlap without any spaces.

14. (currently amended) A method of claim 13 wherein one of the first portion and the second portion is inserted into a mold shaping the other one of the first portion and the second portion prior to the blow molding of the other one of the first portion and the second portion, such that the first and second undulating portions bond in complementary ~~interlocked~~ relation to one another.

15. (currently amended) A blow-molded pallet comprising:

a) a first portion having an outer surface and an inner surface and wherein said inner surface has a set of first channels and protrusions ~~bottom portion having a first bottom surface and a first top surface wherein said top surface has a first set of channels and protrusions;~~

b) a second portion having an outer surface and an inner surface and wherein said inner surface has a set of second channels and protrusions ~~an upper portion having a second top surface and a second bottom surface having a second set of channels and protrusions; and~~

wherein the first and second sets of channels and protrusions comprise complementary shaped surfaces that are mounted in interdigitated facing relation with the first and second sets of channels and protrusions substantially contacting one another over all regions of interdigitation ~~wherein the second set of channels and protrusions of the upper portion respectively interlock with the first set of protrusions and channels of the bottom portion.~~

16. (currently amended) The pallet of claim 15, wherein one of the first and second sets of channels and protrusions is molded using the other of the first and second sets of channels and protrusions as a molding surface ~~in complementary interdigitated engagement to the other to connect the upper portion to the bottom portion.~~

17. (currently amended) The pallet of claim 15, wherein at least one of said first and second portions ~~portion~~ contains cavities and wherein the other of said first and second portions ~~portion~~ contains an extending member which is inserted into the cavity during molding to lock one of said first and second portions to the other ~~portion to another portion.~~

18. (currently amended) The pallet of claim 15, wherein one of said first and second portions ~~portion~~ contains a locking member, and wherein the other of said first and second portions ~~portion~~ contains a receiving member so that the locking member and receiving member communicate to lock of said first and second portions ~~to the other one portion to the other portion~~.

19. (currently amended) The pallet of claim 15, wherein one of said first and second portions ~~includes bottom and upper portions~~ include a plurality of tack off points where the first and second portions connect to one another ~~bottom and upper portions are connected to one another~~.

20. (withdrawn) The pallet of claim 15, wherein the upper portion includes at least one leg; and wherein the bottom portion includes one foot having a hollow portion for receiving a foot of the upper portion.

21. (original) The pallet of claim 15, further comprising an upper portion first end and an upper portion second end included with the upper portion; and a bottom portion first end and a bottom portion second end included with the bottom portion, wherein at least the upper first end mates with the bottom first end.

22. (currently amended) The pallet of claim 15, wherein one of upper and bottom portions is molded to the other such that the interlocked first and second sets of protrusions thermally bond to one another.

Claim 23 cancelled.

24. (currently amended) The pallet of claim 1 wherein the inner surfaces of the first and second portions each comprise undulating corrugated portions ~~that mount in interdigitated relation to one another~~.

25. (currently amended) The pallet of claim 1 wherein the outer surface of the second portion comprises a plurality of feet and a plurality of intervening channels whereby the pallet can be accessed from a plurality of sides for raising and lowering.

26. (currently amended) A pallet comprising:

a first portion having a generally flat outer surface and an inner surface including a plurality of undulating planar ridges and valleys that extend in parallel to one another and are displaced from the outer surface;

a second portion having an outer surface including a plurality of depending feet and intervening channels and an inner surface including a plurality of undulating ridges and valleys displaced from the outer surface; and

wherein the undulating ridges and valleys of the inner surface ~~surfaces~~ of the second portion are mounted in interdigitated contact with the undulating ridges and valleys of the first portion over all regions of overlap ~~are molded in complementary interdigitation to the undulating ridges and valleys of the first portion.~~

27. (previously presented) The pallet of claim 26 wherein the outer surface of the second portion includes a plurality of undulating ridges and valleys.

28. (currently amended) The pallet of claim 26 wherein the ridges of each undulation at the inner surfaces of the first and second portions define a wave front relative to a first axis and further include a plurality of undulating second ridges and second valleys that define a second wave front that bi-sects the first axis ~~27 wherein a plurality of the undulating ridges and valleys of the inner surface of the first portion run orthogonal to the undulating ridges and valleys of the second portion.~~

29. (new) The pallet of claim 28 wherein the second wave front runs orthogonal to the undulating ridges and valleys of the second portion.

30. (new) The pallet of claim 1 wherein the inner surface of the first portion substantially defines a surface over which the inner surface of the second portion is molded.

31. (new) A method as set forth in claim 13 wherein each of the first and second undulating portions each comprise a succession of undulations having rises and falls and wherein each undulation at the first and second undulating portions includes a series of ridges and grooves.

32. (new) A method as set forth in claim 13 wherein each of the first and second undulating portions exhibit corrugated shapes.

33. (new) The pallet of claim 31 wherein said ridges and grooves extend orthogonal along each of said rises of said first and second undulating portions.

34. (new) A method of forming a pallet comprising the steps of:

a) blow molding a first portion having an outer surface and an inner surface and wherein the inner surface has a first undulating portion that is displaced from the outer surface;

b) mounting said first portion in a mold for a second portion and such that the inner surface is exposed during molding; and

c) blow molding a second portion having an outer surface and an inner surface and wherein the inner surface has a second undulating portion complementary to the first undulating portion that is displaced from the outer surface, and wherein the second undulating portion is interdigitated with the first undulating portion such that the first and

second undulating portions are bonded to one another over all regions of overlap without any spaces.

35. (new) The pallet of claim 34 wherein the first and second undulating portions each define a wave front parallel to a first axis and wherein the first and second undulating portions further include a plurality of undulations that define a second wave front that bi-sects the axis of first wave front.

36. (new) The pallet of claim 35 wherein the first and second wave fronts extend orthogonal to one another.